

Manifestations of the Flesh

(Strategies of Living)

Below is a list of words and phrases which may portray you much of the time when you are under pressure.

*To cope when things
aren't going right or
going my way,
I tend to ...*

become self-absorbed (self-consumed) by:

- becoming overly introspective
- feeling sorry for myself
- engaging in self-pity
- getting depressed by stuffing my anger and frustrations
- beating up on myself (hating myself)
- focusing on my suffering and trials to get attention and sympathy
- playing the role of a victim/martyr

withdraw (isolate myself) by:

- becoming aloof (pulling away)
- going into a shell
- running and hiding (escaping)
- distancing myself from others
- avoiding others (becoming a loner)
- becoming unapproachable
- being overly introverted
- retreating to the silent treatment
- not communicating

become obsessed with:

- accomplishments
- recognition
- status
- how I look
- what others think of me
- my physical health
- the past (especially past hurts and past failures)
- a devotion to a cause
- structure, order, rules, regulations

escape pain/pressure through:

- carousing
- drugs/alcohol
- staying busy
- television
- athletics
- hobbies/games
- computers
- pornography
- entertainment
- overeating
- religious activity and service
- becoming a workaholic
- working (career, business, job)
- gloom & doom thinking (refusing to see the positive)
- sex
- talking
- school
- sleep
- religion
- reading
- fantasy
- movies

become self-disciplined (self-reliant) by:

- becoming a perfectionist
- overcompensating by trying even harder so as not to fail
- becoming legalistic
- living "by the book"
- living by rules (have to's, should's, must's, ought's)
- becoming too hard and strict on myself and others
- setting unrealistic standards for myself and others
- basing acceptance (of self and others) on performance
- fearing making mistakes

become self-indulgent (self-gratifying) by:

- becoming impulsive (hasty)
- buying things to feel better

- assuming "if it feels good, do it"
- becoming compulsive (lacking self-control)
- lusting (craving) for:
 - alcohol
 - drugs
 - caffeine
 - sex
 - sugar
 - junk food
 - cigarettes

become anxious (worry and fret) by:

- becoming fearful (apprehensive)
- lacking peace and rest
- becoming paralyzed (going numb)
- becoming paranoid (overly suspicious)
- seeking astrology, horoscopes, fortune telling (tarot cards, palm reading, ouija boards, etc.) and/or the occult for guidance and strength

become dominant by:

- becoming dictatorial (bossy)
- becoming demanding (pushy)
- becoming overbearing (controlling)
- becoming manipulative
- intimidating others
- demanding my rights

try to stay in control through:

- blackmailing (making threats)
- manipulating (using coercion)
- using profanity (swearing)
- giving the silent treatment
- being passive (playing helpless)
- not eating (anorexia/bulimia)
- using guilt
- showing favoritism

To cope when things aren't going right or going my way, I tend to ...

come across as

insensitive, uncaring, indifferent, unconcerned, and/or unsympathetic

become complacent (nonchalant) by:

- saying things like, "It doesn't matter...it's okay"

challenge others by:

- resisting authority
- becoming uncooperative (unteachable)
- causing dissension (strife)
- irritating (aggravating) others
- becoming argumentative, rigid, inflexible, closed-minded, stubborn, obstinate, unreasonable, or unyielding

become pessimistic by:

- lacking confidence and optimism
- becoming skeptical (suspicious)
- distrusting others, myself, God, church, and/or government
- expecting the worst
- assuming the worst-case scenario to protect myself from disappointment and pain
- seldom being satisfied or content
- seldom being pleased with self/others
- becoming jealous of others' success and happiness

develop a critical attitude by:

- finding fault with others, myself, and everything around me

- nit-picking things to death
- becoming judgmental (opinionated)
- becoming prejudiced (intolerant)
- complaining a lot (becoming negative)

become hostile

(vent my anger) by:

- becoming unfriendly (cynical)
- becoming hateful (malicious)
- becoming harsh (cruel and brutal)
- becoming sarcastic (caustic)
- having a quick temper

become self-assured

(self-confident) by:

- depending on myself instead of God
- becoming proud (haughty)
- becoming egocentric (acting pompous)
- bragging (being boastful)
- becoming arrogant (cocky)
- having a superior attitude (saying in effect:
I must always be right ...
I must always win ...
I must always be the best)
- pretending that I know it all
- becoming conceited (smug)
- having difficulty asking for help

become self-righteous

(self-justifying) by:

- becoming defensive
- making excuses (rationalizing)
- covering up and hiding mistakes
- assuming I am never the problem
- pointing to someone or something else as the problem
- avoiding taking responsibility for failure or problems
- becoming critical of others (blaming others)

- having difficulty:
 - admitting I was wrong
 - apologizing
 - asking for forgiveness
 - expressing gratitude

become tense

(nervous and agitated) by:

- finding it hard to relax
- becoming restless (high-strung)
- becoming impatient

become emotionally insulated by:

- keeping people at a distance
- becoming inhibited (bottling up emotions)
- avoiding intimacy
- denying feelings; having difficulty expressing feelings and opinions openly and honestly
- becoming unable to express love in a meaningful way

deny reality by:

- ignoring problems and hoping they will go away
- denying anything is bad or wrong
- lying (misleading)
- deceiving others and myself
- exaggerating (overstating matters)
- playing games to hide real intent
- conning people to get what I want

hold a grudge

(be resentful) by:

- becoming moody (sulky)
- harboring bitterness
- becoming unforgiving
- keeping a scorecard of wrongs done to me or by me
- trying to get even (seeking revenge)
- wanting others to fail or get hurt
- punishing myself or others

*To cope when things
aren't going right or
going my way,
I tend to ...*

**fight unfairly
(take cheap shots) by:**

- becoming slanderous (misrepresenting the actual situation)
- gossiping (talking behind others' backs)
- engaging in passive-aggressive behavior (i.e. using humor to hide real feelings, becoming sarcastic, refusing to communicate, becoming passive, forgetting things, procrastinating, being late, etc.)

put up a front (not being real) by:

- faking it (hiding what I really think and feel)
- putting on a show (performing) to get attention and impress others
- becoming pretentious (phony, unreal)
- becoming superficial (plastic)
- becoming gushy (too sentimental)

lack compassion, kindness, understanding, gentleness, and love

live by my feelings by:

- becoming too subjective (believing that truth is only what I feel)
- believing I'm okay only when I feel okay
- becoming too sensitive to criticism
- becoming hypersensitive
- taking things too personally
- reading in rejection when it isn't there, or setting things up to bring about rejections
- becoming touchy (irritable)
- being controlled by anger, doubts, emotions, fear, etc.

**become a pleaser
(being nice) by:**

- trying to be all things to all people
- trying to do the "proper or correct" thing
- trying to keep everyone happy
- trying to keep peace at all cost
- avoiding conflict at all cost
- becoming a doormat (letting others take advantage of me)
- expressing to others what I think they want to hear
- giving in to others too easily
- becoming controlled by others
- having difficulty:
 - saying no
 - setting boundaries
 - standing up for myself
- becoming overly compliant
- becoming too submissive

**become passive
(lacking initiative) by:**

- quitting too easily (giving up)
- not taking chances
- playing it safe (pulling back and waiting)
- waiting for someone to tell me what to do and how to think
- depending on others instead of God
- vacillating (becoming too changeable)
- becoming indecisive (not making decisions)
- wanting someone else to make the decision for me
- avoiding failure at all cost
- procrastinating (putting things off)
- becoming irresponsible (becoming unreliable)
- becoming lazy, apathetic, lethargic

**become self-depreciating
(self-condemning; self-critical) by:**

- assuming I am always the problem
- becoming overly apologetic
- becoming too hard on myself
- having difficulty:
 - receiving love
 - receiving compliments
 - receiving forgiveness
 - forgiving myself
- clinging (becoming a leech) to those who finally accept me
- becoming uncomfortable with success

**become a caretaker
(rescuer) by:**

- becoming over-protective
- taking responsibility for others' feelings (becoming overly responsible)
- making decisions for others
- giving unsolicited advice
- trying to prevent others' failure
- becoming possessive (selfish)
- becoming a busybody (becoming too involved in others' affairs)
- becoming preachy (lecturing others)
- trying to find someone who needs me and who I can rescue
- nagging (badgering)
- talking too much and listening poorly

**become too intense
(overly serious) by:**

- becoming stoical (unemotional)
- having trouble dealing with feelings
- becoming overly analytical
- becoming stern (solemn/formal)
- lacking joy or life
- not being fun to be with